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County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2014

Four of the six large counties in Wisconsin recorded employment increases from September 2013 to September 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment.) Dane County had the largest increase, up 1.1 percent, followed by Outagamie and Milwaukee Counties, up 0.8 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. Employment in Waukesha County rose 0.3 percent over the year. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the employment gains in these four counties were less than the national increase of 2.0 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee (482,400) in September 2014, followed by Dane (314,700), and Waukesha (232,100). The three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 150,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Winnebago County rose 3.2 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014, the largest increase among Wisconsin's large counties, followed by Brown county at 3.1 percent. Waukesha County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$929, followed by Milwaukee County at \$902 and Dane County at \$900. (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.9 percent over the year to \$949 in the third quarter of 2014.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Two of Wisconsin's large counties recorded wage gains greater than the national increase of 2.9 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014. (See [table 1](#).) As noted, Winnebago County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 3.2 percent, and ranked 91st among the 339 largest counties across the nation. Brown County's 3.1 percent increase ranked 103rd. The Counties of Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Waukesha all experienced average weekly wage increases of 2.5 percent, ranking 165th nationwide. Dane County recorded the only wage decrease among Wisconsin's large counties, down 2.2 percent, ranking 338th in the nation for change in average weekly wages.

Nationally, 328 of the 339 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage gain, up 11.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013. San Francisco, Calif., was second with a wage increase of 8.6 percent, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. (7.4 percent), and San Mateo, Calif. and Brazoria, Texas (7.1 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 10 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Collier, Fla., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 3.9 percent. Dane, Wis., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 2.2 percent from the third quarter 2013, followed by Williamson, Texas. (-0.8 percent), Hamilton, Ind. (-0.7 percent), and Shawnee, Kan. (-0.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's six largest counties were below the national average of \$949 in the third quarter of 2014. As noted, Waukesha County (\$929) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 119th among the 339 largest counties across the nation, followed by Milwaukee (\$902) and Dane (\$900) which placed 142nd and 145th, respectively. Brown (\$829) and Outagamie (\$808) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties and ranked among the bottom half.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$949) in 99 of the 339 largest counties in the third quarter of 2014. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,012, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,824), New York, N.Y. (\$1,733), San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,685), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,631).

There were 237 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2014. Horry County, S.C. (\$580), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$603), Hidalgo, Texas (\$616), Marion, Fla. (\$644), and Pasco, Fla. (\$650).

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's smaller counties

Of the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000, Racine County had the highest average weekly wage at \$830. Bayfield County had the lowest weekly wage at \$512 followed by Florence, at \$516. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 25 reported average weekly wages of \$649 or less, 31 had wages from \$650 to \$749, and 16 had wages of \$750 or more. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2015.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. (CT).

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.7 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,724.1	2.0	--	\$949	--	2.9	--
Wisconsin.....	2,783.1	1.1	--	808	35	1.9	42
Brown, Wis.....	149.6	-0.2	318	829	211	3.1	103
Dane, Wis.....	314.7	1.1	212	900	145	-2.2	338
Milwaukee, Wis.....	482.4	0.4	282	902	142	2.5	165
Outagamie, Wis.....	103.4	0.8	248	808	241	2.5	165
Waukesha, Wis.....	232.1	0.3	290	929	119	2.5	165
Winnebago, Wis.....	89.7	-0.6	330	865	178	3.2	91

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁽³⁾ Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁽⁴⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage (¹)
United States (²)	137,724,117	\$949
Wisconsin	2,783,123	808
Adams	4,660	631
Ashland	8,125	667
Barron	21,840	656
Bayfield	4,262	512
Brown	149,632	829
Buffalo	3,716	663
Burnett	4,674	564
Calumet	13,302	679
Chippewa	24,234	679
Clark	10,609	624
Columbia	21,186	686
Crawford	7,767	612
Dane	314,675	900
Dodge	34,728	754
Door	14,447	567
Douglas	15,521	706
Dunn	16,746	707
Eau Claire	55,880	751
Florence	920	516
Fond du Lac	46,381	748
Forest	3,117	631
Grant	17,641	623
Green	14,899	672
Green Lake	6,738	765
Iowa	10,187	693
Iron	1,684	558
Jackson	8,691	737
Jefferson	33,113	686
Juneau	9,028	684
Kenosha	55,208	745
Kewaunee	6,932	691
La Crosse	67,800	733
Lafayette	3,938	572
Langlade	7,381	628
Lincoln	10,745	691
Manitowoc	33,728	741
Marathon	68,992	786
Marinette	19,140	721
Marquette	3,663	568
Menominee	2,165	608
Milwaukee	482,404	902
Monroe	19,628	693
Oconto	8,985	583
Oneida	17,032	693
Outagamie	103,417	808
Ozaukee	40,921	776
Pepin	2,266	638
Pierce	9,746	602
Polk	15,655	668
Portage	33,498	726
Price	5,567	676
Racine	73,321	830

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2014
- Continued**

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage (¹)
Richland.....	5,934	640
Rock.....	63,485	768
Rusk.....	5,159	579
St. Croix.....	32,593	687
Sauk.....	36,405	662
Sawyer.....	6,851	594
Shawano.....	12,493	576
Sheboygan.....	59,141	793
Taylor.....	7,842	674
Trempealeau.....	14,498	682
Vernon.....	8,529	595
Vilas.....	7,947	537
Walworth.....	40,104	650
Washburn.....	6,015	584
Washington.....	52,811	781
Waukesha.....	232,104	929
Waupaca.....	20,457	662
Waushara.....	6,555	594
Winnebago.....	89,690	865
Wood.....	37,112	762

(¹) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(²) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,724.1	2.0	\$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama.....	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska.....	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona.....	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas.....	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California.....	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado.....	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut.....	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware.....	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia.....	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida.....	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia.....	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii.....	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho.....	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois.....	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana.....	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa.....	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas.....	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky.....	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana.....	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine.....	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland.....	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts.....	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan.....	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota.....	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi.....	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri.....	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana.....	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska.....	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada.....	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire.....	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey.....	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico.....	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York.....	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina.....	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota.....	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio.....	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma.....	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon.....	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania.....	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island.....	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina.....	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota.....	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee.....	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas.....	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah.....	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont.....	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia.....	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington.....	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia.....	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin.....	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming.....	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Puerto Rico.....	896.7	-1.5	505	(3)	0.8	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.5	-1.0	720	(3)	2.0	(3)

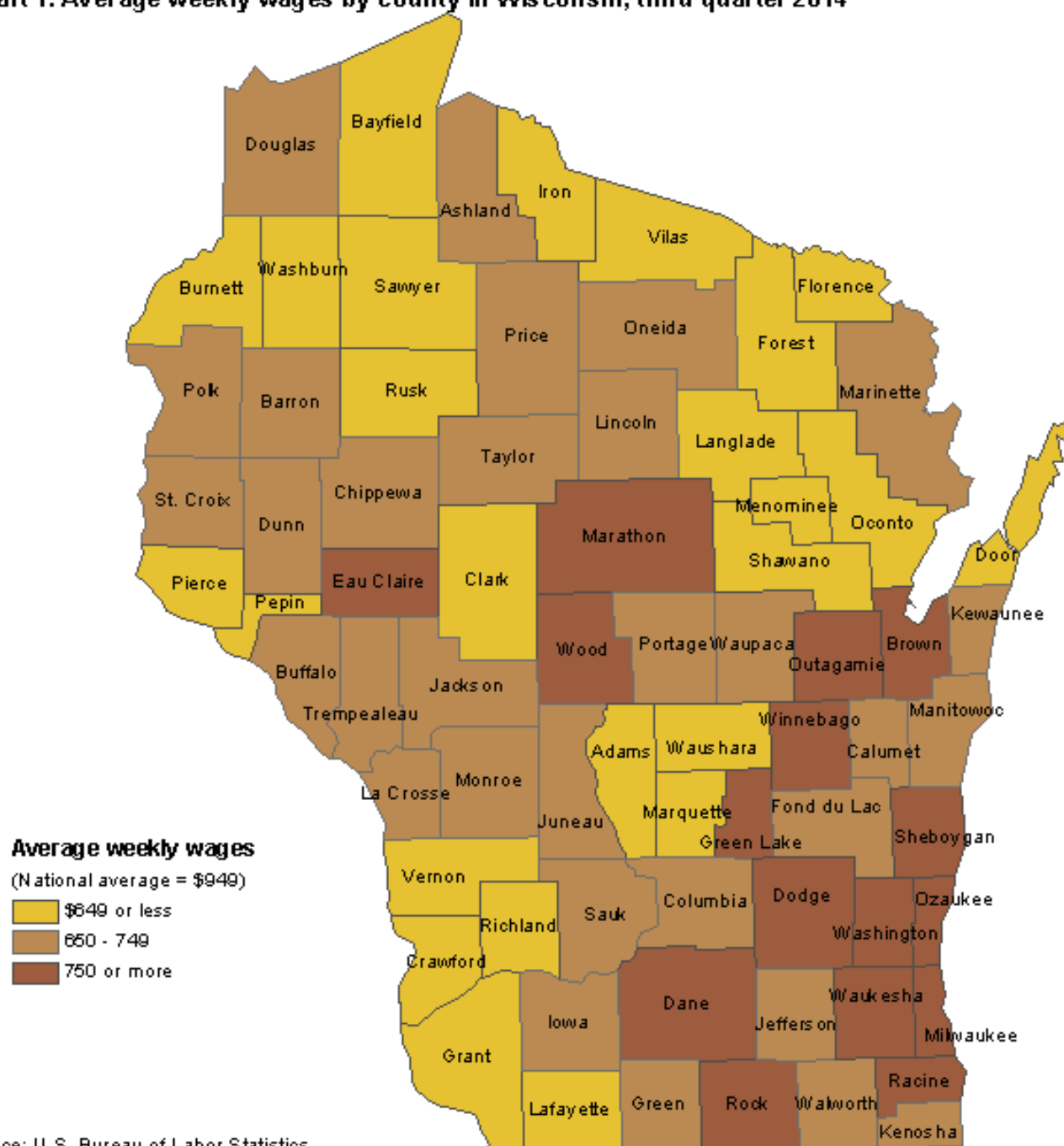
⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁽³⁾ Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Wisconsin, third quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.